

Message Text

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O 230030Z OCT 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253378

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 253378 ACTION TUNIS
15 OCT 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253378

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 253378 ACTION PARIS OCT 13

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253378

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, TS

SUBJECT: UNESCO: TUNISIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MASS
MEDIA

1. FOLLOWING ARE REMARKS PREPARED BY ASSISTANT LEGAL
ADVISER STOWE CONCERNING CHANGES WE MAY WISH TO PROPOSE
IN DR 19, TUNISIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MASS MEDIA, AND
OUR RATIONALE. YOU ARE NOT RPT NOT TO ACT ON THIS ISSUE
CONFIDENTIAL

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UNTIL SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED TO DO SO. PRESENT
TRANSMISSION IS MERELY TO ALLOW PERM REP TIME TO DIGEST
SUBSTANCE OF STOWE'S REMARKS. WE ARE HAVING FRENCH
TRANSLATION MADE OF THE REMARKS AND WILL TRANSMIT ASAP.

(A) PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH TWO. ALTHOUGH UNESCO MAY WELL BE THE ORGANIZATION BEST SUITED TO UNDERTAKE THE STUDIES REQUESTED, IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR THAT UNESCO, RATHER THAN UNDP, FOR EXAMPLE, IS THE ORGANIZATION BEST SUITED TO ARRANGE FOR ASSISTANCE SUCH AS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES, EXPERT ADVICE, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. COMMENT: AS THIS QUESTION ARISES IN OTHER PROVISIONS, IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO CLARIFY AT THIS POINT THAT WE WOULD NOT WISH TO EXCLUDE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, OR NECESSARILY EVEN CENTRALIZE SUCH EFFORTS IN UNESCO. END COMMENT. PERHAPS THIS INFERENCE MIGHT BE AVOIDED BY REPEATING THE INITIAL PHRASE OF THE FIRST PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH, NAMELY: "CONVINCED ALSO THAT UNESCO CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN LIBERATING..." COMMENT: FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO REFER TO "FREEING THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES..." WHICH SOUNDS marginally LESS POLEMIC. END COMMENT.

(B) RECOMMENDATION PARA 1: WE COULD AGREE THAT THE COLOMBO RECOMMENDATIONS BE STUDIED IN DEPTH BY UNESCO, BUT WOULD LIKE TO ADD THE PHRASE "AND -HAT FOR THESE PURPOSES CLOSE COLLABORATION..." OTHERWISE THERE COULD BE SOME QUESTION WHETHER SOME NEW PERMANENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE WITH UNDEFINED AND OPEN ENDED RESPONSIBILITIES IS BEING ADVOCATED.

(C) RECOMMENDATION PARA 2: IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DIFFICULTIES OF DEBATING WHETHER ALL THE COLOMBO RECOMMENDATIONS SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY UNESCO, WE WOULD PREFER THAT THIS PARA READ "...PROGRAM ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS;"

(D) RECOMMENDATION PARA 3: SUBPARAS (A) AND (B) - RATHER THAN ASSUMING AUTOMATICALLY AND WITHOUT A SPECIFIC CONTEXT THAT "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION POLICIES" AND THE "FORMULATION OF INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS RELATING TO ... TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS..." ARE CALLED CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR, THESE TWO SUBPARAS MIGHT BETTER READ AS FOLLOWS:

"(A) EXAMINE WHETHER THERE IS NEED, AND WHAT IT MIGHT BE, FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS POLICIES, INCLUDING THE ROLE PLAYED BY TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS...' THE PRESENT SUBPARA (C) WOULD THEN BECOME (B). COMMENT: IT SHOULD BE NOTED IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE ITU, WITH VIRTUALLY UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP HAS FOR DECADES ALREADY BEEN INTEGRALLY INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING PLANNING OF

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, AND WE WOULD NOT WISH UNESCO TO OVERLAP OR INTERFERE WITH THE ITU'S JURISDICTION. END COMMENT.

(E) PROPOSAL TO ADD THREE PARAGRAPHS BETWEEN PRESENT PARAS 4,72 AND 4173 OF DRAFT PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR 1977-1978: THE FIRST TWO PROPOSED PARAS ARE QUITE ACCEPTABLE, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT NO COMMITMENT IS BEING MADE HERE TO AN ACTUAL REVISION OF TARRIFS PENDING A CLOSER EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUE. THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE THIRD PARA IS ALSO ACCEPTABLE, BUT WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE PHRASE "MORE BALANCED NEWS" HAS CONNOTATIONS OF CONTROLLED NEWS REPORTING WHICH WE WOULD CLEARLY NOT WISH TO ENDORSE. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, AGREE TO THIS PARA IF IT READ "BALANCED FLOW OF NEWS" OR "BALANCED EXCHANGE OF NEWS."

(F) PROPOSAL TO ADD A NEW PARA BEFORE PARA 4175 OF DRAFT PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR 1977-1978. WE WOULD MUCH PREFER TO MINIMIZE UNNECESSARY POLEMICS IN DEFINING THESE STUDIES, AND HENCE WOULD PREFER THIS PARAGRAPH REFER TO "...THE CONSEQUENCES OF DEPENDENCE INHERENT IN..." AND TO "THE INTERESTS" OR "THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH REGARD TO..." FINALLY, RATHER THAN PRESUMING AN AUTOMATIC OPPOSITION OF VIEWS BETWEEN MASS MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THOSE IN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE LAST PHRASE OF THIS PARA MIGHT BETTER READ "...AS THIS ROLE IS SEEN BY THE MASS MEDIA IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES." IF THE STUDY IDENTIFIES SUCH OPPOSITION, IT SHOULD BE DESCRIBED AT THAT TIME, NOT PRESUMED BEFOREHAND. CONFIDENTIAL

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(G) PROPOSAL TO ADD A NEW PARAGRAPH BEFORE PARA 4179 OF DRAFT PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR 1977-78: THE REFERENCE TO RESEARCH ON "NEWS CONTENT" CARRIES UNMISTAKABLE OVERTONES OF NEWS CONTROL OR MANIPULATION WHICH WE COULD NOT ENDORSE. IF THE POINT OF THE STUDIES WERE CHANGED TO "RESEARCH ON NEWS SERVICES," HOWEVER, SUCH A PROPOSAL COULD BE QUITE USEFUL AND ON A BASIS WHICH WE COULD SUPPORT.

(H) PROPOSAL TO AMEND PARA 4816 OF DRAFT BUDGET: WE AGREE WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THIS AMENDMENT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO REFERENCE TO THE RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE, AND THE REFERENCE TO INDEPENDENCE OF INFORMATION THAT CONSTITUTES UNDUE EMPHASIS ON THIS ONE ASPECT OF THE RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE.

(I) PROPOSAL TO ADD A PARAGRAPH AFTER PRESENT PARA 4203: THIS PROPOSAL IS HIGHLY OBJECTIONABLE ON SEVERAL GROUNDS. FIRST, THE UTILIZATION OF SATELLITES IS OBVIOUSLY NOT A MATTER OF CONCERN OR A MATTER WITHIN ANY SPECIAL JURISDICTION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALONE. IF THE INTENTION IS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO PURCHASE AND

OPERATE THEIR OWN SATELLITES, THEN OF COURSE THEIR UTILIZATION COULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. OTHERWISE, ANY SUCH PLANNING SESSIONS MUST BE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS. SECOND, MAJOR NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THE UTILIZATION OF SATELLITES ARE WELL UNDER WAY IN BOTH THE ITU AND THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED EXPERTISE IN THIS AREA AND BOTH OF WHICH INCLUDE EXTENSIVE REPRESENTATIONS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THEREFORE, IT WOULD NOT SEEM APPROPRIATE OR USEFUL FOR UNESCO TO BECOME FURTHER INVOLVED IN THIS AREA AT THIS TIME.

(J) PROPOSAL TO ADD TWO PARAS BETWEEN PRESENT PARAS 4209 AND 4210: BECAUSE A GUARANTEE OF "TOTAL" ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INFORMATION IS IMPRACTICABLE, THIS PHRASE SHOULD MORE REALISTICALLY READ "...WHICH WILL ENSURE FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GREATEST FEASIBLE ACCESS TO. . ." KISSINGER
UNQUOTE EAGLEBURGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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